PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 6,850 under Public Health and Sanitation.

As the members will see from the agenda, this consists of two items, the first is a sum of Rs. 6,250 for the contribution to the Public Health Department, Madras, in connection with the plague recrudescence enquiry in the Cumbom Valley, and the second a sum of Rs. 600 for payment of allowance etc., to Mr. T. R. Narayana Pillai, Public Analyst, in connection with his training in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Sir, regarding the first item I may be permitted to say that at present Government are spending somewhere about Rs. 33,000 on plague preventive measures in the Peermade and Devicolam taluks. We are trying various measures for the control and prevention of plague. It is a well-known fact that plague germs are imported into Travancore from British India. Plague has been long prevalent in British Districts and it is only recently that a few stray cases appeared in Travancore territory also. Various measures are being tried to prevent its spread in Travancore. Inoculation is one of them. Fumigation of provisions is another. These measures are being carried on to some extent in the Peermade and Devicolam taluks. Last year the Public Health Department in Madras started an experiment in Cumbom Valley for the complete extermination of rats and rat-fleas. I need not tell the House that plague germs are carried by rat-fleas, and if we can find an effective method to exterminate them it will be the best means to prevent plague. The experiment was started last year in the Cumbom Valley by the Madras Public Health Department. For the conduct of that experiment, Travancore Government contributed about Rs. 615. The experiment was successful and during the ensuing official year, (1934-1935) the Madras Public Health Department has arranged to carry out extensive operations for the extermination of rats and rat-fleas in that valley. It is expected that the cost during the year would come to about Rs. 12,500 and the Travancore Government were asked whether they would be prepared to contribute half that cost.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know where the Cumbom Valley is ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Beyond the eastern frontiers of Travancore.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether the Madras Government contributes anything to the work which is carried on within the Travancore territory ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : No. I will just explain why we should contribute to the expenditure incurred by them. It is expected that if the attempt to

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[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

exterminate rats and rat-fleas in the Cumbom Valley proves successful, we can very well give up the various measures that we are adopting for the control and prevention of plague in Peermade and Devicolam taluks. If the experiment is successful, Travancore need not be afraid of plague germs being imported into Travancore, at least for the next three or four years.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether that is an expert knowledge gained by Government?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That is the information that the Government have received from expert authorities. I may say that the experiment was carried out last year and it was found successful and the expert advice is that these experiments will be successful this year also, and if that be so, I may say that Travancore can be kept free from plague.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) May I know whether this contribution is voluntary or a compulsory one?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The British Government asked the Travancore Durbar whether they are prepared to co-operate in the work, and the Travancore Government agreed to the proposal in view of the advantages to the State. We are now spending about Rs. 23,000 on plague preventive measures. My information, based on the reports received from experts, is that, if the work which is started in Cumbom Valley is carried on successfully for three or four years, plague can be kept out of Travancore for a number of years.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the British Government is trying the experiment in the interest of the British Government or the Travancore Government?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is found that the contribution is in the interest of Travancore Government because, if we do not contribute, we will still have to carry on preventive measures in Travancore at a cost of about Rs. 23,000 every year. The British Government may carry on the experiment in a few of the villages in the Cumbom Valley and probably the danger of the plague germs coming into Travancore may still continue. We cannot compel the British Government to carry on the operations in all the frontier villages of Travancore. If only the Travancore Government contribute to the extent required, the Madras Government will extend the operations to all the frontier villages of Travancore. It is for this purpose that I am asking for a supplementary grant of Rs. 6,250.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether there is any inter-Statal convention between the British Government and the Travancore Government with regard to the Public Health Department?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No, as far as I know.

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MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is there any provision for the British Government giving a contribution to the Travancore Government for carrying out preventive measures within our territory?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): If the British Government are satisfied that any scheme carried on in Travancore will be to the benefit of their subjects and if the Travancore Durbar approaches them, I am sure they will only be too glad to contribute a portion of the expenditure.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether there was any such occasion?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not aware of any such occasion.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know who will be the officers that will actually be working out the scheme in those districts and whether Travancore officers will also be included among them?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Travancore officers are posted at Kumili and they are carrying on experiments there. I think these officers will co-operate in the work that is being done by the officers of the Madras Public Health Department.

There is absolutely no objection to the Travancore officers visiting the centres.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): കമ്പംവാലിയിൽക്കൂടി മാത്രമേ ഈ പകർച്ച വ്യാധി തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കടക്കുകയുള്ളൂ? വേറെ മാർഗ്ഗത്തിൽ കൂടി വരുന്നതിനിടയില്ലേ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Goovernment*): അവിടെ കൂടി മാത്രമെ വരുന്നൊള്ളൂ. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ വടക്കുഭാഗത്തു് കൊച്ചിരാജ്യമാണു്. അവിടെ പ്ലേഗ് ഉള്ളതായി അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. പടിഞ്ഞാറുഭാഗം കടലാണു് അതുകൊണ്ടു് ആ വഴിയിൽക്കൂടി വരാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. കിഴക്കുഭാഗത്തുള്ള മധുരയിൽ നിന്നും ഇങ്ങോട്ടു് വ്യാപിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടാണു് ഇതുവരെ കണ്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു്. വേറെ സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നു വരുന്നതായി ഇതുവരെ കണ്ടിട്ടില്ല.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Rural*): May I know whether plague started in Travancore territory or in British territory?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Plague came into Travancore long after it appeared in British India, so that it seems to be the natural presumption that it has come to Travancore from British India.

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[Rao. Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

The second item of this demand is the amount required for the payment of allowance etc., to Mr. Narayana Pillai who has been appointed as Public Analyst to undergo training. The demand of Rs. 600 is composed of the following items:—

(1) Allowance to Mr. Narayana Pillai at Rs. 70 per mensem, for six months	...	Rs. 420
(2) Travelling allowance-single II class	...	Rs. 60
(3) Tuition fees.	...	Rs, 120
Total	...	Rs. 600

Mr. Narayana Pillai was appointed as Public Analyst in the Public Health Department. When the Food Adulteration Regulation comes into operation, we will require a trained Food Analyst. Mr. Narayana Pillai was actually appointed about six months ago ; but, though he was given the order of appointment, it has not yet taken effect. Mr Narayana Pillai is a good Chemistry graduate who had undergone about four years' training in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. There he had had some training in food analysis also. It was considered that it would be better, in the interests of his work, to give him some more specialised training in food analysis so as to enable him to get the diploma of "Associate in Chemistry".

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I am sorry. Government propose to send Mr. Narayana Pillai again to the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore for further training in food analysis.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : May I know whether the intensive work proposed to be conducted is in furtherance——

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. (Chief Secretary to Government*) : Is the member referring to food analysis ?

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : No, plague enquiry.

If the work now proposed to be carried on is in furtherance of work done last year, may I know why provision was not made in the budget for the year ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Definite information about the success of the experiments conducted was obtained only recently, and then the Deputy Director of the Health Department went to the spot, found out the real situation and sent up a report. Government got the report only very recently. Provision could not, therefore, be made in the budget for the current year.

The demand was put to vote and carried, and the grant was made.

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